

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON (FONC):
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 2nd FEBRUARY 2024 AT NAPHILL VILLAGE HALL

62 people attended.

Chairman's report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A Powerpoint presentation accompanied his report on FONC's activities.

The Working Parties, led by Peter Davis on Tuesdays and Ron Collins on Thursdays, were continuing, mainly with holly and pond clearance. The phased removal of sweet-grass from Daisy Pond was carried out between 2015 and 2023. Ladyhorse Pond had been very neglected. Work started in 2017 when no water was visible. Much rubbish as well as grass has been removed and water can now be seen in the pond together with lot of newts.

The mower had failed and a flail was bought. Thanks are due to the West Wycombe Estate for a contribution of £500 towards its cost. Sonia Goby set up a "Just Giving" page which raised a further £600 so many thanks to all who contributed. The flail has proved a great success, particularly on clearing The Clumps. It is set quite high to avoid the appearance of a lawn but sufficient to keep down new growth. A total of 1,020 hours work was carried out by the combined working parties in 2023. A request was made for more helpers.

The long and short walks led by Ron Collins (third Monday of the month) and Chris Miller (first Wednesday of the month) respectively are continuing. All are welcome. Date and time details are on the FONC website. Thanks to Ron Collins for organising the Children in Need walk in November 2023, which had raised £475. The total raised for Children in Need since 2017 is £2,823. The annual lunch was held at Temple Golf Club.

The donated owl box and three bat boxes had been installed at The Clumps by the National Trust; that part of the Common is owned by the Trust.

Membership and Treasurer's report

The accounts were to be displayed on FONC's website. The surplus of £1.70 for the year, was thanks mainly to the contribution of £678 from Bucks Council towards the refurbishment of the notice boards completed last year, The flail cost £2,120 largely offset by donations. Expenditure was mainly on equipment and insurance for the working parties. Thanks to John Harris for inspecting the accounts.

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Election of committee new members were always welcome, to encourage a fresh approach. FONC's activities were currently publicised via the Naphill Gazette, the village Facebook pages and FONC's website. Thanks were due to Peter Davis, our webmaster.

All the remaining current members were elected unopposed.

Chris Miller (Chairman)

Neil McMinn (Treasurer & Membership Secretary)

Marian Miller (Secretary)

Peter Davis (Webmaster)

Kevin Bennett

John Camp

Ron Collins

Peggy Ewart

Trevor Hussey

There was no other business

The AGM was followed by an illustrated presentation by Dave Brown B.E.M. on "The History of Bomber Command".